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era, little is known, except a few capital facts, such as the expedition of the Scots from Spain to Ireland, about 500 years before the birth of our Saviour; the legislation of *Ollamh Fodhla*, and his erection of apartments for the College of Fileas at Teamor, where they continued undisturbed under every revolution, and from thence spread with equal immunities through the neighbouring provinces. These were facts which were too big for oblivion in any country where the elements of literature were cultivated. These elements were imported from Spain, where native Scytho-Celts held intercourse with the Phenicians, and their Carthaginian posterity. It was in memory of these intercourses they took occasionally and ostentatiously the name Phenii. Hence the dialect among them called the Phenian (the language of their jurisprudence, preserved to this day, but not understood by me or any other Irish scholar in this kingdom), and hence the number of Phenician terms discovered by Coll. Vallancey in our old intelligible writings.

Through the lights obtained by the Scots (in a part of the continent where the Phenicians had lasting settlements), they learned the art of sailing on the ocean, and imported into this island the 17 cyphers they used in their writings; and thus insulated on a remote island, and cut off from any intellectual intercourse with the polished people of Greece and Rome, they were left to the improvement of their own stock. In such a situation their improvement must have been slow as well as gradual. It took them time to form their barren Scytho-Celtic dialect (first used in the greater division of Europe) into a nervous and copious language, stripped of its original consonantal harshness. It is still preserved in our old books, and discovers to us the corruptions of our common people, who are corrupting it more and more every day, even in places where the English language is not yet used. By the way, how could the language of the third century in your country be preserved pure to this day in the Highlands of Scotland? How could the poems of Ossian be preserved by oral tradition through a period of 1,500 years? In our old *written* language, we discover that the speakers were a cultivated people, but their cultivation was local; and on that score the discovery of what it was, among this sequestered people, is an object more interesting to us than one offered to investigation from a bare principle of curiosity.

To you, Sir, and to disengaged writers like you, it is left to bring this subject of Scottish antiquity out of the darkness spread over it. The lights which the revolution under our Tuathal (surnamed the Acceptable) afford will be of great use to you. At the close of the first century, the Belgians of Ireland revolted against their Scottish masters—expelled the old royal family, and set up a monarch of their own blood. Tuathal, the presumptive heir of the Heremonian line, was conveyed to your country—his mother, Ethinea, being the daughter of the king of the Picts, he was protected there under his grandfather. Grown to maturity, he returned, and after subduing all the enemies of his house, he mounted the throne of Teamor. Soon after, in a convention of the states, the crown of Ireland was by a solemn law declared hereditary in his family, and from this epocha, which commenced A.D. 130, to the establishment of Christianity, we have a series of authentic history productive of great men and great actions.

I shall owe much to your indulgence if you pardon all this before I come to the chief subject of your letter. Of all that I could find relating to your country, I shall in my next send you transcripts and literal translations; but I must confess that I have not hitherto met with much that has not been published in the last age by Mr. O'Flaherty. In the book of Balimote, I find our antiquaries concurring with Bede in the establishment of Carbery Riada, as the leader of the first colony of Scots in Britain, supported there partly by the indulgence of the Picts, and partly by the negotiating power of the wisest of our monarchs, Cormac Ultada, Carbery's cousin-german. The second great colony was established by Carbery's posterity, the Sons of Erk about the year 503. The succession of the Dalraida kings from that period, with the years of reigns down to Malcolm Canmor, has been preserved in the poem quoted by Mr. O'Flaherty, a copy of which I possess and the original, with a translation, shall be remitted to you, as soon as I recover a little from my present languid state, bound by rheumatic pains. That the Tuatha de Danan arrived in Ireland from North Britain, and subdued the Belgians all our documents aver.

Be assured, Sir, of any service I can render you in your present undertaking. The more it is agitated by able writers the more the truth of history will appear. The motto of your

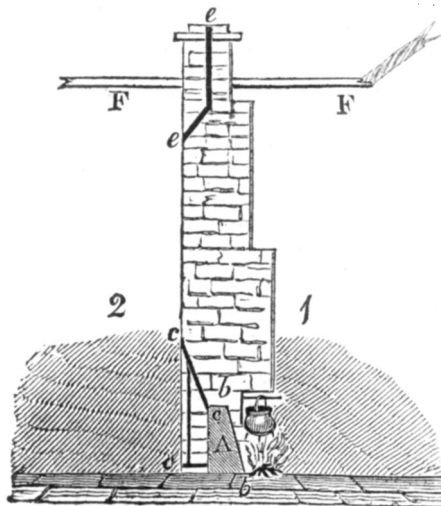
arms, *Post Nubibus*, makes me look up to you as the person who will disperse the cloud cast on our history. I scarcely have room to subscribe myself,

Your very obedient servant,

CHARLES O'CONOR.

ECONOMY OF FUEL.

The scarcity of fuel which prevails in many parts of this country, is a source of great misery to the poor. In France, where in many parts timber (the general fuel) is so dear as to be one of the most expensive articles in housekeeping, the ingenuity of the people has suggested many expedients for extending the beneficial effects of a single fire. One of these, as extremely simple, we lay before our readers, and as its expense is very trifling, we have little doubt but that humanity will cause its adoption by every gentleman and farmer building labourers' cottages. We suppose that the chimney is placed in the middle, as it ought to be in every two-roomed house. In building the fire place, a small chamber about fifteen or eighteen inches in length, about eight inches in depth, and about twelve or fifteen inches in height, it is to be left in the wall behind that part of the hearth where the fire is generally placed. From the top of this to the second room, a tube about an inch in diameter passes through the wall—this may be a piece of an old gas pipe. The front of the chamber we have mentioned is formed by a plate of wrought or cast iron from a quarter to half an inch in thickness. Against this the fire is made which heats the air in the chamber, and the heated air ascending, passes through the tube and warms the second room. The chamber behind the fire may be supplied with cold air by a smaller tube passing horizontally from the second room into the bottom of it. It may be necessary to have a small flue passing from the top of a room thus heated through the chimney. We furnish a section of such a fire place as we have described, which will enable any mason to build it.



a The chamber. bb The metal front. cc The larger tube d The smaller. ee The flue, two inches square. FF The ridge of the house. 1 Kitchen. 2 Sleeping room, or second room.

The whole additional expence of this fire place would not exceed ten shillings, and would add much to the comfort of the occupiers. The metal plate should cover the chamber well, lest a spark should pass through the tube and do mischief. It should be well fixed and immoveable, and may even thus be sometimes useful as a griddle for baking a cake laid against it when heated.

The tubes in warm weather could be stopped with corks, and even were the chamber air tight, a thing not to be expected, there would be no danger, as the expansion of the air would expel the corks.

J. E. H.

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